



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

No. 52

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Reverend Gary Shaw, Central Christian Center, Joplin, Missouri, offered the following prayer:

Father, as I stand in this beautiful hall of honor, my heart overflows with admiration and appreciation for those who have occupied this place throughout history representing the citizens of this great country.

May Your divine wisdom, Your unbiased judgment and Your love fill each of those who have chosen to serve our Nation. May they draw from Your fountain of knowledge and Your storehouse of fair play as they administer and create legislation that governs our land. Instill in all of us a respect, honor and a love for life that will allow us to serve with pride and dignity at all levels of local, State, and national government.

Help us to put on the shield of faith and to face the challenges before us with a determination that we will succeed and prosper because we operate in Your providential and divine order.

Please bless America and help us honor You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND GARY SHAW

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, it's my honor today to welcome for the opening prayer a respected leader and a friend of mine, Reverend Gary Shaw of Central Christian Center in Joplin, Missouri. Reverend Shaw is an elder and trustee at the Central Christian Center and has served there as executive administrator for the past 30 years.

In addition to his church work, Reverend Shaw is the mayor of the city of Joplin in southwest Missouri. Joplin is the second largest city in my congressional district. It serves a four-State area as a center for commerce, education, health care, and transportation.

Gary Shaw has spent several years in service to the city of Joplin, and I am thankful for Reverend Shaw's committed efforts to the city as a member of several committees and leadership boards. His work to improve business, safety, and historic preservation in his community and State does not go unnoticed.

He's a devoted father and husband. He's been married to his best friend, Kathy, for 46 years and has one son, Brian, a local businessman. A veteran of the United States Army, a graduate of Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Reverend Shaw has also been a witness for his faith in over 30 countries.

It's truly my honor to welcome Reverend Shaw to the House today and thank him for his service to Missouri and many years of dedicated service to the city of Joplin.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-

minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. MARINE CORPORAL MIKE OUELLETTE

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Marine Corporal Mike Ouellette of Manchester, New Hampshire. Corporal Ouellette was tragically killed in action on Sunday, March 22, during a foot patrol in the Helmand Province in Afghanistan. He was 28 years old.

Corporal Ouellette leaves behind his parents, Donna Ouellette and Leonard Ouellette, a brother Alan, and a sister Stephanie. I extend my deepest sympathies to Corporal Ouellette's family, who are in my thoughts and prayers.

We also honor the courage and the sacrifice of Corporal Anthony Williams, 21, of Oxford, Pennsylvania, who was killed alongside Corporal Ouellette.

Corporal Ouellette was a patriot who was twice deployed to Iraq and was serving his third tour of duty with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force.

Corporal Ouellette graduated from Memorial High School in Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1999 and studied at the Manchester School of Technology before he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on June 15, 2005. I spoke with his father last night, who said his son just wanted to help people. Corporal Ouellette was best known for his friendly and outgoing nature and will be missed by many. He was a blessing to his community. He dedicated his life to the service of his family, his friends, and his country.

Our country owes Corporal Ouellette and his family a debt we cannot repay.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H4029

We salute Corporal Ouellette's selfless sacrifice, service and bravery. America was honored to call him our son.

WHITE HOUSE BUDGET

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, next week the House is going to vote on the administration's budget that spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. Every day, American families need to make tough decisions to balance their budgets. If they end up in the red each month, they are in trouble. But not the Federal Government.

The administration says spend, spend, spend. The White House budget raises taxes on hardworking Americans in the middle of a recession. Americans say "no new taxes." They don't want us to raise taxes during a recession. They know that it is not the way to get this economy moving again. Our children and grandchildren deserve better. Let's clean the budget up.

We used to say, "It's the spending, stupid."

A PROMISING BUDGET

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this Congress' Budget Committee worked long into the night last night to prepare a budget for the House to vote on. It's a budget that cuts the deficit by two-thirds by the year 2013, and gives a tax cut for 95 percent of the American people.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the middle class and 95 percent of the people will get a tax cut, not simply the upper 1 percent who have gotten the tax cuts while we have been Bush-whacked over the 8 years of the Bush-Cheney Presidency and a Congress that's now run off the tracks and threatened the world's economy.

We're going to invest in health care to give people affordable health care, invest in education so the Chinese don't lead us in science and math, and we can maintain our position as the world's number one economic power and also invest in renewable energies so we're not dependent on Middle Eastern oil, and a Defense Department that needs to protect those routes to keep America secure; a budget that is a promising budget for the future to create jobs.

I am proud of the Budget Committee and look forward to supporting the President.

NO NEW TAXES

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, this budget of the President taxes too much, it borrows too much, and it spends way too much money. And the focus of the White House should be on what they can do to generate economic growth rather than finding new ways to tax our families, hardworking families. And we hear they are going to be taxed to the tune of \$1.9 trillion—with a "T"—in new taxes.

My constituents have had enough of this economic abuse and so have our children and our grandchildren. They don't want the government to continue to spend money they have not made for programs that they do not want. They are worried about the future of their small businesses, they are worried about their retirement plans, and they are worried about the future of those children and grandchildren. So Republicans are offering an alternative that will be there to help ensure our economic prosperity.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to support this alternative because Americans deserve more than wasteful government spending at unprecedented levels. They deserve freedom and economic prosperity.

□ 1015

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. This week, once again, we observe Cover the Uninsured Week, something we do every year. You know, the United States is a world leader in so many respects, but are we ever a poor example to follow on health care coverage.

As many as 47 million Americans lack insurance, and many more we know are underinsured. In most instances, they lack access to quality health care, especially primary and preventive care.

Our country has dug itself into a hole so deep, I'm afraid there isn't one simple solution to the puzzle of covering the uninsured. Thankfully, we have already begun to take important steps, such as expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program and assisting unemployed individuals struggling to pay COBRA premiums.

But we have so much more work to do. We must finally extend coverage to all Americans, and we must do it this year.

Let's give real meaning to the phrase "cover the uninsured" and have something to celebrate next year.

OBAMA'S BUDGET BORROWING TOO MUCH

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, it's becoming increasingly clear to Americans all across this country that President Obama's budget spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. No one in the history of the world has ever borrowed so much money. How much? Right now we're borrowing about \$1 million each minute.

The Obama budget would double the national debt in 5 years, triple it in 10 years. Think about the impact that's going to have on our country. The Federal Government is showering itself with money while small businesses and families all across this country are continuing to have to tighten their belts and make tough decisions.

I think about my son, Cole, who will be 2 next month, and by the time he's my age, he's going to face a doubling of the tax burden. It's not sustainable. It is not fiscally responsible. We can do better and we must do better.

History teaches us that the Pharaohs drove Egypt to bankruptcy building the pyramids. At least they got pyramids. All we're going to have is a mountain of debt.

WHO SHOULD GET THE BONUSES

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on behalf of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus. There has been a lot of talk and controversy on the floor about bonuses for America's executives. Let me tell you who I believe really deserve bonuses.

It's the energy entrepreneurs who are working every single day to develop the new technologies that will end our dependence on foreign oil. It's the people on Long Island who are working on LED lighting and biofuels; the people at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, who are working on battery storage; the people at General Motors who are working on plug-in hybrids; the people at Brookhaven National Labs who are working on nanotech; the venture capitalists and the investors and the engineers and the researchers and the developers who are bringing new technologies to market which will reduce our dependence on foreign oil once and for all, which will create a new generation of jobs, which will expand our economy, and which will reduce energy costs.

Those are the people who are creating a new future for America's economy, and those are the people who we should be rewarding with bonuses and our appreciation.

BUDGET GIMMICKS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)